

ADA Community Preventive Dentistry Award - "KanSmile" Topeka

The American Dental Association's (ADA) Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations announced the winners of its 2003 Community Preventive Dentistry Award **Meritorious awards were presented to "Smile Kentucky" (Louisville, Kentucky); "Children's Dental Day" (Lincoln, Nebraska) and "KanSmile" (Topeka, Kansas).**

See a brief explanation below of the project.

Success By 6 –Success By 6 is a community-based, public-private partnership of individuals and organizations, based on the principles of collaboration and prevention. <http://national.unitedway.org/sb6/aboutsb6/> Success By 6 began in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1988 and can be found in more than 330 United Ways throughout the country. Success By 6 works to ensure that all children develop the emotional, social, cognitive and physical capacities and skills they need to achieve well-being and enter school ready to learn. While each community's priorities are unique, key strategies usually include raising awareness, improving access to services and advocating for public policies that improve the lives of children and families. **The Topeka coalition has brought the Colgate Dental Van to Topeka for the last two years resulting in more than 2,400 children in 19 schools receiving screenings and referrals, if needed. They developed Brushing Buddies is an interactive oral health program designed by Success By 6 to educate parents as it entertains children. It is on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website so that others may replicate it. <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/ohi> Additionally, WIC nurses are involved in a fluoride varnish project. The WIC nurses give oral health education to parents as they come in for their six-month re-certification visits. If the parent chooses, the WIC nurse may then apply fluoride varnish to their child's teeth as soon as the first tooth has erupted, and every six months up to six applications.**